

10/05/00
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BOX 401, 40 KING STREET WEST, TORONTO, CANADA M5H 3Y2
PHONE (416) 364-7311 • FAX (416) 361-1398 • WWW.BERESKINPARR.COM

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PTO/SB/05 (4/98)
Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0032
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UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 5562-966/PMdC
First Inventor or Application Identifier Conrad et al.
Title UPRIGHT VACUUM CLEANER
Express Mail Label No.

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

1. ☒ * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 22]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Micro fiche Appendix
 - Background of the invention
 - Brief Summary of the invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 8]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 4]
 - a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☒ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
 - i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

5. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
8. ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) ☒ Power of Attorney
9. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
10. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
11. ☒ Preliminary Amendment
12. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
13. ☐ * Small Entity Statement(s) ☐ Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired
(PTO/SB/09-12)
14. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
15. ☐ Other:

* NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

☒ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. 09/239,860
Prior application information: Examiner T. Snider Group / Art Unit 1744

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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| | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------------|
| Name | Bereskin & Parr | | | | |
| Address | Box 401 40 King Street West | | | | |
| City | Toronto | State | Ontario | Zip Code | M5H 3Y2 |
| Country | Canada | Telephone | (416) 364-7311 | Fax | (416) 361-1398 |

Name (Print/Type) Philip C. Mendes da Costa

Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 33,106

Signature

Date

4/10/00

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BERESKIN & PARR

BOX 401, 40 KING STREET WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO CANADA M5H 3Y2
PHONE (416) 364-7311 FAX (416) 361-1200 WWW.BERESKINPARR.COM

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Patent fees are subject to annual revision.
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See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.27 and 1.28.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 710.00

Complete if Known

Application Number n/a
Filing Date n/a
First Named Inventor Conrad et al.
Examiner Name n/a
Group / Art Unit n/a
Attorney Docket No. 5562-966/PMdC

09/679353



10/05/00

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)

1. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:

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Deposit Account Name Bereskin & Parr

☐ Charge Any Additional Fee Required
Under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17

2. ☐ Payment Enclosed:
☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Other

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

| Large Entity Fee Code (\$) | Small Entity Fee Code (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| 101 090 | 201 345 | Utility filing fee | 710.00 |
| 106 310 | 206 155 | Design filing fee | |
| 107 480 | 207 240 | Plant filing fee | |
| 108 690 | 208 345 | Reissue filing fee | |
| 114 150 | 214 75 | Provisional filing fee | |

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$ 710.00

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

| Total Claims | Extra Claims | Fee from below | Fee Paid |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------|
| 8 | -20** | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | -3** | 0 | 0 |

**or number previously paid, if greater. For Reissues, see below

| Large Entity Fee Code (\$) | Small Entity Fee Code (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------|
| 103 18 | 203 9 | Claims in excess of 20 | |
| 102 78 | 202 39 | Independent claims in excess of 3 | |
| 104 280 | 204 130 | Multiple dependent claim, if not paid | |
| 109 78 | 209 39 | ** Reissue independent claims over original patent | |
| 110 18 | 210 9 | ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent | |

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$ 0.00

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

| Large Entity Fee Code (\$) | Small Entity Fee Code (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------|
| 105 130 | 205 65 | Surcharge - late filing fee or oath | |
| 127 50 | 227 25 | Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet | |
| 139 130 | 139 130 | Non-English specification | |
| 147 2,520 | 147 2,520 | For filing a request for reexamination | |
| 112 920* | 112 920* | Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action | |
| 113 1,840* | 113 1,840* | Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action | |
| 115 110 | 215 55 | Extension for reply within first month | |
| 116 360 | 216 180 | Extension for reply within second month | |
| 117 870 | 217 435 | Extension for reply within third month | |
| 118 1,360 | 218 680 | Extension for reply within fourth month | |
| 128 1,850 | 228 925 | Extension for reply within fifth month | |
| 119 300 | 219 150 | Notice of Appeal | |
| 120 300 | 220 150 | Filing a brief in support of an appeal | |
| 121 260 | 221 130 | Request for oral hearing | |
| 138 1,510 | 138 1,510 | Petition to institute a public use proceeding | |
| 140 110 | 240 55 | Petition to revive - unavoidable | |
| 141 1,210 | 241 605 | Petition to revive - unintentional | |
| 142 1,210 | 242 605 | Utility issue fee (or reissue) | |
| 143 430 | 243 215 | Design issue fee | |
| 144 580 | 244 290 | Plant issue fee | |
| 122 130 | 122 130 | Petitions to the Commissioner | |
| 123 50 | 123 50 | Petitions related to provisional applications | |
| 126 240 | 126 240 | Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt | |
| 581 40 | 581 40 | Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties) | |
| 146 890 | 246 345 | Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a)) | |
| 149 690 | 249 345 | For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b)) | |

Other fee (specify) _____

Other fee (specify) _____

* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 0.00

SUBMITTED BY

Name (Print/Type) Philip C. Mendes da Costa

Signature

[Signature]

Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)

33,106

Complete (if applicable)

Telephone (416) 364-7311

Date

5/10/00

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October 5, 2000

Philip C. Mendes da Costa
B.Sc. (Chem. Eng.), LL.B.
416 957 1695 pmdcosta@bereskinparr.com

Your Reference: 09/239,860
Our Reference: 5562-966/PMdC

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The Commissioner of Patents
& Trademarks
Washington, D.C.
U.S.A. 20231

Dear Sir:

Re: Continuation of United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/239,860
For: UPRIGHT VACUUM CLEANER WITH MOTOR ON TOP
Filed: January 29, 1999
Applicant: Conrad et al

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

Please amend the title to read as follows:

—UPRIGHT VACUUM CLEANER WITH CYCLONIC AIR FLOW —

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1.

At Line 1, after "The present application is" insert

-- a division of Application No. 09/239,860, filed January 29, 1999, now pending,
which in turn is a --

Page 7.

At line 20: delete "and"

At line 23: after "position", delete "and insert" and replace with

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-- and,--

At line 24: insert -- Figure 15 is an elevational view of the vacuum cleaner when hung from the wall. --

Page 8.

At line 19: after "first" insert --of--

Page 12.

At line 5: delete "32" and insert --56--

Page 14.

At line 8: delete "62" and insert --60--

Page 16

At line 27: after "art.", insert -- For example, as shown in Figure 15, hanger mount 84 may be fixed to wall 88 by a mounting means such as a nail or screw 86. Mounting means 84 is adapted for engaging hanger 82. Accordingly, as shown in Figure 15, hanger 82 is received in hanger mount 84 when the vacuum cleaner is configured to the lowered storage position and raised above the floor so that hanger 82 may be received in hanger mount 84. --

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please add new Figure 15.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

At line 1, delete "comprises" and insert --has--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 through 21 as numbered in the attached copy of the parent application as filed, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new Claims 22 through 30, as follows:

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22. A vacuum cleaner comprising:

(a) a housing defining a cyclonic airflow chamber for separating contaminants from a suction airstream, said housing further comprising an inlet for said cyclonic airflow chamber and an outlet for said cyclonic airflow chamber;

(b) a dirt container selectively mounted in said housing for receiving and retaining dirt and dust separated from said suction airstream;

(c) a nozzle base including a main suction opening, said main suction opening being fluidically connected with said cyclonic airflow chamber inlet;

(d) an airstream suction source having an inlet disposed adjacent said cyclonic airflow chamber outlet and a suction source exhaust outlet spaced from said cyclonic airflow chamber, said suction source selectively establishing and maintaining an approximately linear suction airstream from said outlet of said cyclonic airflow chamber to said inlet of said airstream suction source; and,

(e) a main filter assembly positioned between said cyclonic airflow chamber and said suction source for filtering contaminants from said suction airstream.

23. The vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 22 wherein said filter element is approximately cylindrical in shape.

24. The vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 23 wherein said filter element has a convoluted outer surface.

25. The vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 22 wherein said cyclonic airflow chamber inlet is disposed tangentially adjacent an outer periphery of said cyclonic airflow chamber and said cyclonic airflow chamber outlet is parallel to a longitudinal axis of said cyclonic airflow chamber.

26. The vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 22 further comprising a final filter assembly positioned on one of said housing and said nozzle base, said final filter assembly being in fluid communication with said suction source exhaust outlet for filtering said suction airstream exhausted from said suction source into the atmosphere.

27. The vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 26 wherein said final filter assembly comprises a high efficiency particulate arrest (HEPA) filter media.

28. An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

(a) an upright housing section including a handle;

(b) a nozzle base section hingedly interconnected with the upright housing section, said nozzle base section including a main suction opening formed in an underside thereof;

(c) a cyclonic airflow chamber defined in said upright housing section for separating dust and dirt from a suction airstream, said cyclonic airflow chamber including an air inlet and air outlet;

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(d) a suction source located in one of said upright housing section and said nozzle base section and having a suction airflow inlet in fluid communication with said cyclonic chamber outlet and a suction airflow outlet;

(e) a main filter assembly located between said cyclonic airflow chamber and said suction source for filtering residual dust and dirt from a suction airstream as it flows through said cyclonic airflow dust and dirt separating chamber; and,

(f) wherein an inlet of said suction source is colinear with said cyclonic chamber outlet.

29. The upright vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 28 further comprising a final filter assembly located on one of said housing and said nozzle base, said final filter assembly being in fluid communication with said suction airflow outlet of said suction source for filtering said suction airstream exhausted by said suction source prior to said suction airstream being dispersed into the atmosphere and wherein said final filter assembly comprises a high efficiency particulate arrest (HEPA) filter media.

30. The upright vacuum cleaner as set forth in claim 28 further comprising a dirt cup, wherein said cyclonic airflow chamber is defined within said dirt cup and between an interior wall thereof and an exterior wall of said main filter assembly.

REMARKS

This is a voluntary divisional application of Application No. 09/239,860, filed January 29, 1999. ("the '860 Application"). A Notice of Allowance issued in the '860 Application on June 20, 2000, and the issue fee was paid on September 18, 2000. Claims 22 through 30 are pending, with Claims 22 and 28 being independent. Original application Claims 1 through 21 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 22 through 30 have been added. The title has been amended. The specification has been amended, Figures 3, 5 and 6 have been corrected and new drawing Figure 15 has been added, in order to incorporate those amendments made in the '860 Application.

Applicant also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to Application No. 09/227,534, filed January 8, 1999, based upon the fact that the parent '860 Application was filed as a continuation-in-part of that application.

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STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.607(c)

In accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.607(c), the Examiner is respectfully advised that newly added Claims 22 through 30 have been copied exactly or in modified form from Claims 1, 3 through 7, 9, 10 and 14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,070,291 to Kenneth W. Bair, et al. ("Bair et al. '291").

The Bair et al. '291 patent issued on June 6, 2000, and is of record as assigned to Royal Appliance Mfg. Co., of Cleveland, OH. The '860 Application and the present divisional application are of record as assigned to Fantom Technologies Inc., of Ontario, Canada.

Applicant has copied claims from Bair et al. '291 for the purpose of provoking an interference with that patent. Support for the copied claims and the identification of a proposed count for the interference will be submitted in a separate Request for Interference, which will be filed in due course. In the meantime, if the Examiner reaches this case for action prior to receipt of the Request for Interference, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned before acting on the subject application.

Applicant also includes an Associate Power of Attorney with the application papers. Applicant's associate U.S. attorney, Warren E. Olsen (Reg. No. 27,290) may be reached in his Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the principal attorneys, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Philip C. Mendes da Costa
Registration No. 33,106

/ms
Encl.

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BP #5562-966

BERESKIN & PARR

United States

Title: UPRIGHT VACUUM CLEANER

**Inventor: WAYNE ERNEST CONRAD
HELMUT GERHARD CONRAD**

005001 4555/250

Title: UPRIGHT VACUUM CLEANER

This application is a continuation of application serial number 09/239,860 filed on January 29, 1999.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates generally to upright vacuum cleaners incorporating at least one cyclonic separation stage.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Various types of vacuum cleaners are traditionally produced. These include built in vacuum cleaners, canister vacuum cleaners and upright vacuum cleaners. Upright vacuum cleaners have a ground engaging portion and an upwardly extending portion. The ground engaging portion typically has wheels for movement of the cleaning head across a floor and a
15 suction inlet for the intake of dirty air into the vacuum cleaner. The upwardly extending portion comprises the filter means for removing dirt which is entrained in the air. The upwardly extending portion generally has a handle for guiding the vacuum cleaner across the floor.

20 Traditionally in upright vacuum cleaners, the motor to draw the dirty air through the vacuum cleaner is positioned in the ground engaging head and the upward extending portion is pivotally mounted to the upper portion of the ground engaging member at a position adjacent the motor.

25 More recently, cyclonic technology has been introduced commercially into canister and upright vacuum cleaners. See for example United States Patent Numbers 4,373,228; 4,571,772; 4,573,236; 4,593,429; 4,643,748; 4,826,515; 4,853,008; 4,853,011; 5,062,870; 5,078,761; 5,090,976; 5,145,499; 5,160,356; 5,255,411; 5,358,290; 5,558,697;
30 and RE 32,257. These patents disclose a novel approach to vacuum cleaner design in which sequential cyclones are utilized as the filtration medium for a vacuum cleaner. Pursuant to the teaching of

these patents, the first sequential cyclone is designed to be of a lower efficiency to remove only the larger particles which are entrained in an air stream. The smaller particles remain entrained in the air stream and are transported to the second sequential cyclone which is frusto-conical in shape. The second sequential cyclone is designed to remove the smaller particles which are entrained in the air stream. If larger particles are carried over into the second cyclone separator, then they will typically not be removed by the cyclone separator but exit the frusto-conical cyclone with the air stream.

The advantages of cyclonic separation have been combined with an upright vacuum cleaner to provide a household cyclonic vacuum cleaner, as shown in U.S. Patent No. 4,593,429 to Dyson. As shown in Figure 1, this vacuum cleaner 10 essentially comprises a large, outer cylindrical cyclone 12, with an inner cyclone 14 nested therein, which is mounted on a ground engaging member or floor-cleaning head and provided with a push handle for convenient movement of the unit. A motor, located in the floor cleaning head, draws air through the cleaning head and into an intake conduit 16, which delivers air to the dirty air inlet 18 of the outer cyclone container 12. From the outer cyclone the air flows into inner, nested dust separating cyclone 14, and from there, continues on through the vacuum motor to a clean air exhaust port.

The air intake conduit 16 connects the floor cleaning head and the dirty air inlet in air flow communication. Air intake conduit 16 extends upwardly along the outside of outer cyclone container 12 generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the cyclones 12, 14. At a position adjacent air inlet 18 to outer cyclone 12, air intake conduit 16 bends 90° and travels inwardly to provide a tangential air flow inlet to air inlet 18 of outer cyclone container 12.

In use, air intake conduit 16 may become blockage. If the blockage occurs at a midpoint of the conduit, it may be difficult to clear the blockage. While a clean out port may be provided, the

port may not be located near where the blockage occurs. Further, the addition of a port increases the cost and complexity of the manufacture of the product.

5 A bend in a conduit for a fluid causes a turbulent pressure loss in the conduit as the fluid travels through the bend in the conduit and the greater the sharpness of the bend, the greater the pressure loss. The pressure loss in the air flow decreases the amount of suction which can be generated at the cleaning head of the vacuum cleaner for any given motor in the vacuum cleaner and
10 therefore the efficiency of the vacuum cleaner.

One disadvantage of cyclonic vacuum cleaners is the amount of power which is required to create an air flow sufficient to convey the dirty air through the cyclones at sufficient speeds to maintain the air flowing cyclonically through the cyclones.

15 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

In accordance with the instant invention, there is provided an upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

- (a) a cleaning head for cleaning a surface;
- (b) an upper body portion mounted on the cleaning
20 head, the upper portion having a longitudinally extending axis and comprising:
 - (i) at least one cyclone having an air entry port;
and,
 - (ii) a motor positioned above the at least one
25 cyclone and in air flow communication with the
at least one cyclone.

In accordance with the instant invention, there is also provided an upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

- (a) a cleaning head for cleaning a surface having a
30 forward portion and two spaced apart rear portions extending rearwardly from the forward portion;

(b) an upper body portion mounted on the cleaning head, the upper portion having a longitudinally extending axis and at least one cyclone having an air entry port, the upper body portion mounted on the cleaning head at a position forward of the spaced apart rear portions, the spaced apart rear portions defining an open space therebetween sized for receiving the upper body portion therebetween when the upper body portion is in the lowered storage position.

In one embodiment, the cleaning head has a forward portion including an opening in air flow communication with the at least one cyclone and two spaced apart rear portions extending rearwardly from the forward portion, the spaced apart rear portions defining an open space therebetween, the upper body portion mounted on the cleaning head at a position forward of the spaced apart rear portions.

In another embodiment, the upper portion is positionable in a lowered in use position wherein the longitudinally extending axis is at an angle of 40° to the vertical and, when the upper body portion is in the lowered in use position, the centre of gravity of the upper body portion is positioned above the open space. The upper body portion may further comprise a handle, the weight of the handle in the lowered in use position being 2 lbs. or less.

The spaced apart rear members may have floor contacting members such as glides or wheels adjacent the ends thereof. The floor contacting members may be positioned rearwardly of the centre of gravity when the upper body portion is in the lowered in use position.

In another embodiment, the upper body portion is pivotally connected to the cleaning head whereby the upper body portion is moveable between an in use position in which the upper

body portion extends upwardly and rearwardly from the cleaning head and a lowered storage position in which the upper body portion extends generally rearwardly from the cleaning head. The cleaning head may have a forward portion and two spaced apart rear portions extending rearwardly from the forward portion, the upper body portion mounted on the cleaning head at a position forward of the spaced apart rear portions, the spaced apart rear portions defining an open space therebetween sized for receiving the upper body portion therebetween when the upper body portion is in the lowered storage position.

In another embodiment, the vacuum cleaner further comprises a mounting member engageable with a support member mounted on a wall whereby the vacuum cleaner may be hung flush against the wall when the upper body portion is in the lowered storage position.

In another embodiment, the vacuum cleaner further comprises a second cleaning member positioned downstream from the at least one cyclone.

In another embodiment, the vacuum cleaner further comprises an air outlet to the at least one cyclone for passage therethrough of air, the air passing generally upwardly from the air outlet to the motor.

In another embodiment, the second cleaning member is an electrostatic cleaning member.

In another embodiment, the second cleaning member is positioned between the at least one cyclone and the motor.

In another embodiment, the second cleaning member comprises at least one second cyclone.

In another embodiment, the second cleaning member comprises a plurality of second cyclones.

In another embodiment, the second cleaning member is positioned between the at least one cyclone and the motor, the

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vacuum cleaner further comprising an air outlet to the at least one cyclone and an air outlet to each of the at least one second cyclones, the air passing generally upwardly from the air outlet to the at least one cyclone to the at least one second cyclones and generally upwardly from the air outlet to the at least one second cyclones to the motor.

In another embodiment, the second cleaning member is positioned downstream of the motor, the vacuum cleaner further comprising an air outlet to the at least one cyclone, the air passing generally upwardly from the air outlet to the at least one cyclone to the motor and generally upwardly from motor to the at least one second cyclones.

In another embodiment, the vacuum cleaner further comprises an air inlet to the at least one cyclone and an air supply conduit communicating with the cleaning head and with the air entry port, a portion of the air supply conduit extending longitudinally through the cyclone. The air supply conduit may connect to the air entry port other than through a 90° elbow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a better understanding of the present invention, and to show more clearly how it may be carried into effect, reference will now be made by way of example to the accompanying drawing which show a preferred embodiment of the present invention, in which:

Figure 1 is a cross-sectional side elevation of an upright cyclonic vacuum cleaner with an air intake conduit according to the prior art;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of an upright cyclonic vacuum cleaner according to the present invention;

Figure 3 is a cross-section along line 3 - 3 in Figure 2 of the upright cyclonic vacuum cleaner of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a side view of the vacuum cleaner of Figure 2 in an in use position;

Figure 5 is a cross-section along line 5 - 5 in Figure 3;

5 Figure 6 is a cross-section along line 5 - 5 in Figure 3 of an alternate preferred embodiment;

Figure 7 is a cross-section along the line 7 - 7 in Figure 8 of a further alternate preferred embodiment of the instant invention;

Figure 8 is a cross-section along line 8 - 8 in Figure 7;

10 Figure 9 is a cross-section along the line 9 - 9 in Figure 10 of a further alternate preferred embodiment of the instant invention;

Figure 10 is a cross-section along line 10 - 10 in Figure 9;

Figure 11 is a cross-section along the line 11 - 11 in Figure 12 of a further alternate preferred embodiment of the instant invention;

15 Figure 12 is a cross-section along line 12 - 12 in Figure 11;

Figure 13 is a cross-section along the line 13 - 13 in Figure 3; and,

20 Figure 14 is a side elevational view of the cleaning head of the vacuum cleaner of Figure 2 when the vacuum cleaner is in the lowered in use position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

25 An upright cyclonic vacuum 20 according to the present invention is shown in the Figures 2 and 3. A floor cleaning head 22 is provided at the lower end of vacuum cleaner 20. Head 22 comprises a forward portion 21 and two rear portions 23 extending rearwardly from the forward portion 21. Rear portions 23 are spaced apart and define a space 25 there between. Head 22 has a dirty air inlet 27 which is positioned in forward portion 21 and, preferably,

adjacent the front end of forward portion 21 (see Figure 3). Preferably, head 22 also comprises a transversely extending, floor-contacting rotating brush member 26 which is mounted for rotation in head 22. A handle 42 and rear wheels 44 may be provided on head 22 to facilitate movement of the unit for cleaning of a floor, and the like. Head 22 may also incorporate a forward set of wheels (not shown) as is known in the art.

In order to be able to convert the vacuum cleaner for above the floor cleaning, handle 42 may be hollow and be connected to a flexible hose 43 for connecting handle in air flow communication with the dirt filtration stages in upper body portion 29.

Upper body portion 29 incorporates the filtration means for removing entrained dirt from the dirty air which is introduced into the vacuum cleaner, via, for example, dirty air inlet 27 and motor 24 which draws the air through vacuum cleaner 20. Upper body portion 29 comprises at least one cyclonic separation stage. Preferably, the vacuum cleaner includes at least two dirt separation stages. The first of the dirt separation stages preferably comprises a cyclonic dirt separation stage. The second stage may be a second cyclonic dirt separation stage or an electrostatic cleaner (eg. an electrostatic precipitator). It will be appreciated that additional dirt separation stages may be incorporated into the vacuum cleaner. For example, a screen or filter may be positioned between first and second cyclonic separations stages. Further, or alternately, a filter or a screen may be positioned upstream of motor 24. Further, a HEPA™ filter may be positioned in the air flow path through the vacuum cleaner, such as after motor 24.

According to the preferred embodiment of the vacuum cleaner shown in Figures 2 and 3, upper body portion 29 comprises cyclonic unit 28 positioned in the lower portion of upper body portion 29. Cyclonic unit 28 may comprise any type of dirt

separation cyclone known in the art, e.g. cylindrical or frusto-conical, and may comprise a single cyclone or multiple cyclones (either in series and/or in parallel). Preferably, cyclonic unit 28 comprises a single cyclone. Referring to Figure 3, cyclone unit 28 comprises cyclone container 30 having an air inlet 32, typically at an upper end 34 thereof, adapted for providing an air flow tangentially to an inner dirt rotation surface 36 of container 30. Container 30 also has a dirt collection surface or bottom 38 and a clean air outlet 40. Upper end 34 of container 30 is sealed, such as by an upper panel 35.

If the vacuum cleaner is used in the upright vacuum cleaner mode, the air flow path through cleaner 20 commences with an air supply conduit 46 having an upstream portion 48 in flow communication with dirty air intake 27 and a downstream portion 50. Upstream portion 48 is provided in head 22 and has a first end 52 positioned adjacent brush member 26 for receiving the dirt laden air and a distal second end 54. Downstream portion 50 is positioned in air flow communication with second end 54. Preferably upstream and downstream portions 48, 50 are substantially sealed together to prevent air and dirt leaking therefrom.

In one embodiment, upstream and downstream portions 48, 50 may comprise a single member (whether integrally formed or connected together). In such a case, portions 48, 50 are preferably flexible so as to allow cyclone container 30 to be emptied. Preferably, they are separate elements which are in air flow communication when container 30 is mounted in vacuum cleaner 20. Thus, if a blockage develops in conduit 46, by removing container 30 from vacuum cleaner 20, portions 48 and 50 may be individually accessed at end 54 to clean out the blockage.

As shown in Figures 3, 7 and 11 downstream portion 50 may extend upwardly through container 30. Alternately, as shown in Figures 9 and 11, downstream portion 50 may extend

upwardly at a position adjacent the outer surface of container 30. Whether downstream portion 50 is provided internally (Figures 11) or externally (Figures 9) to container 30, by manufacturing the vacuum cleaner so that downstream portion 50 is removable with container 30 from the vacuum cleaner, access is provided to both the upstream and downstream portions of downstream portion 50 as well as end 54 of upstream portion 48. Accordingly, multiple access ports are effectively provided as part of the construction of the vacuum cleaner. It will be appreciated that downstream portion 50 may be manufactured as part of container 30 (such as by moulding it integrally therewith). Alternately, it may be separately manufactured (such as by extrusion) and subsequently affixed to container 30 by any means known in the art.

Downstream portion 50 may enter container 30 at any point (eg. via a side wall) but preferably enters through bottom 38. Further downstream portion 50 preferably extends generally upwardly through the central portion of container 30 which comprises the area occupied by the vertical return path of the air as it travels from bottom 38 to outlet 40. As shown in Figure 3, downstream portion 50 preferably extends coaxially with the longitudinal axis A of container 30, however, it may be positioned off centre either internal of container 30 (see for example Figure 11) or external of container 30 (see for example Figure 9).

Downstream portion 50 is preferably positioned at any location within container 30 where it does not unduly interfere with the cyclonic flow of air within container 30. For this reason, if downstream portion 50 is positioned within container 30, it preferably is centrally located in container 30. In particular, in a cyclone, the air travels generally in an annular band adjacent surface 36 of container 30. The air travels generally downwardly until it reaches a position towards bottom 38 of container 30 at which point the air travels upwardly through the central portion of cyclone

container 30. In a most preferred embodiment of this invention, downstream portion 50 is positioned within this central portion of container 30 which contains this upflow of air.

As shown in Figure 11, downstream portion 50 may be positioned adjacent sidewall 36. In such cases, downstream portion 50 is preferably constructed so as to minimize its interference with the flow of air around surface 36. For example, downstream portion 50 may be constructed with rounded surfaces so as to direct the flow of air around downstream portion 50. Further, downstream portion 50 need not be circular in shape but may be elliptical or of other constructions wherein it has a radial extent (i.e. around inner surface 36) which is substantially greater than its width in a direction transverse thereto (i.e. radially inwardly). Thus, downstream portion 50 would extend only slightly into container 30 and would not substantially interfere with the cyclonic flow of air in container 30.

Exit portion 56 is positioned at the upper end of downstream portion 50. Inlet 32 is positioned at the distal end of exit portion 56 from downstream portion 56. Exit portion 56 may extend along any desired path from downstream portion 50 to inlet 32. Preferably, exit portion 56 is wholly positioned within container 30 (eg. it does not exit container 30 through upper end 34).

Exit portion 56 may extend at a right angle to downstream portion 50 as shown in Figure 3. Further, it may extend in a straight line to inlet 32 as shown in Figure 4. It will be appreciated that inlet 32 may be any inlet known in the cyclonic art to introduce air tangentially into a cyclone and it may be positioned at any point along the longitudinal length of container 30 as is known in the cyclonic art.

In one preferred embodiment, exit portion 56 includes a curved portion. More preferably, as shown in Figure 6, exit portion 56 is curved so as to impart circular momentum to the dirty air as it

travels therethrough. Depending upon the degree of curvature, exit portion 56 may assist in tangentially introducing the dirty air into container 30 or it may be the sole source of tangential entry into container 30 (eg. inlet 32 may merely be an opening in exit portion 56 which does not impart any tangential rotation to the dirty air). By constructing the supply conduit in this manner, a 90° elbow is not required to redirect the dirty air to enter container 30 tangentially. In a typical application, replacing a 90° elbow with a gradual curved path to redirect the dirty air results in a about a 5 to 10 % reduction in the loss of suction as the air travels through the vacuum cleaner. Thus, a smaller motor may be incorporated into the vacuum cleaner to obtain the same pressure at inlet 32 or the suction at end 52 may be increased if the same motor is used.

Referring to Figure 7, it will be appreciated that the dirty air travelling in downstream portion 50 travels outwardly to inlet 32. In an alternate preferred embodiment, exit portion 56 curves gently from the upper end of downstream portion 50 so as to travel outwardly towards inlet 32. More preferably, the change in direction of the dirty air from vertical to horizontal and from horizontal to tangential occurs so as to reduce the pressure drop during its travel from downstream portion 50 to container 30.

Centrally located in upper end 34 of container 30 is a clean air outlet 40 for permitting withdrawal of air from container 30. From clean air outlet 40, the air flow may proceed to vacuum fan motor 24 or to a second stage of filtration, such as a second cyclone or other filtration means (eg. an electrostatic precipitator, a mesh screen or a filter). Subsequently, it may be in air flow communication with vacuum fan motor 24.

In operation, the vacuum fan motor 24 is activated to induce an air flow through cleaner 20. The air flow causes a partial vacuum to form at end 52. Air, and entrained dirt, is drawn into upstream portion 48, with the aid of brush member 26. The dirty air

flow moves upwardly in downstream portion 50 to dirty air inlet 32 via exit portion 56 and is introduced tangentially to container 30. The airflow is then accelerated around dirt rotation surface 36, and proceeds generally downwardly along and around dirt rotation surface 36 until it reaches a position towards bottom 38 of container 30, at which point the air flow travels upwardly through the central portion of cyclone container 30. Container 30 may incorporate a wall which is a cylindrical sleeve extending downwardly from outlet 40 to assist in preventing the treated air travelling upwardly to outlet 40 from mixing with the dirty air which is introduced into container 30 via inlet 32.

As can be seen by a comparison of intake conduits 16 and 46, of cleaner 10 and cleaner 20 respectively, the reduction of bends in the air conduit of the present invention beneficially results in a significant reduction in the turbulent pressure loss in the intake conduit, thereby markedly improving the efficiency of the cyclonic separation device as a whole.

The presence of downstream portion 50 extending through the centre of container 30 interferes minimally with the cyclonic action of the air flow within container 30. Thus the presence of downstream portion 50 does not significantly effect the efficiency of the cyclone.

If upper body portion 29 comprises only a single dirt filtration stage, then outlet 40 may be an air communication with motor 24. Alternately, if upper body portion 29 comprises a second or more filtration stage, then outlet 40 may be an air communication with the second filtration stage (as is shown in Figure 3). It will be appreciated that motor 24 may be positioned at any stage in the air flow path through upper body portion 29 provided a sufficient amount of dirt has been removed from the air so as not to damage or unduly damage motor 24.

As shown in Figure 2, vacuum cleaner 20 includes second filtration stage 60. The second filtration stage may comprise one or more cyclones. If the second stage comprises a plurality of cyclones, they may be either in series or parallel but are preferably in parallel. In the preferred embodiment of Figures 3 and 13, second filtration stage 60 comprises three second cyclones 62. Second cyclones 62 may be the same or different and may of any particular configuration known in the art. Second filtration stage 60 also comprises a conduit 64 in fluid flow communication with outlet 40 from the first stage cyclone 28. Conduit 64 is in air flow communication with inlets 66 to second stage cyclones 62. The partially cleaned air is introduced tangentially into second stage cyclones 62 and travels downwardly therethrough with the separated dirt exiting second cyclones 62 via dirt outlets 68. The further cleaned air travels upwardly through the central portion of second cyclones 62 to air outlets 70.

The air may travel directly to motor 24 or may pass through a screen or filter 72 which is positioned between second filtration stage 60 and motor 24. The cleaned air travelling by motor 24 cools the motor. The cooled air may then exit the vacuum cleaner or may pass through a further filtration stage.

In Figures 2 and 3, the air passes upwardly from motor 24 to a third filtration stage which comprises, eg., a HEPA™ filter or an electrostatic precipitator. The further cleaned air exits vacuum cleaner 20 after passage through third filtration stage 74.

In an alternate embodiment, if the vacuum cleaner is convertible for off the floor cleaning (i.e. in a canister mode), then handle 42 may be in air flow communication with the upstream portion of conduit 48 by a flexible hose 43 and conduit 76. Suitable valving means known in the art may be incorporated to selectively connect in air flow communication dirty air inlet 27 and handle 42 with conduit 50.

By this design, it will be appreciated that from second end 54, the dirty air travels upwardly through the filtration stages and exits the vacuum cleaner at the top. In particular, the air travels upwardly to air inlet 32 to cyclonic unit 28. The air then travels upwardly to the air inlets 66 to the second cyclone 62. The air then travels upwardly from air outlet 70 to the motor and, if desired, further upwardly to the third filtration stage 74 prior to exiting the vacuum cleaner. Regardless of the sequence of the filtration stages, or their numbers, the air continues to travel generally upwardly from one stage to the next without substantial bends or 90° elbows being required to direct the air flow.

In conventional designs as shown in Figure 1, the air must reverse course and flow downwardly into head 22 so as to cool the motor. By positioning the motor in upper body portion 29 in the air flow path, a substantially more direct air flow path may be created (by the elimination of several elbows required to bring the cleaned air down to head 22) thus substantially reducing the pressure drop. For example, the pressure drop through the vacuum cleaner such as is shown in Figure 3 may be about 35 inches of water at 45 cfm. By substantially reducing the pressure drop through the vacuum cleaner, the size of motor 24 may be consequentially reduced without reducing the air flow or suction through the vacuum cleaner.

Upper body portion 29 is preferably pivotally mounted to head 22 such as by a ball joint 78. Accordingly, the upper body portion may be positionable in an upright storage position as shown in Figure 3 wherein upper body portion 29 extends generally vertically upwardly from head 22. Upper body portion 29 may be lockingly positioned in this place by a locking means as is known in the art. Upper body portion 29 is preferably so positioned at a position forward of rear portions 23 and more preferably on front portion 21. Head 22 is preferably configured given the vertical

position of motor 24 in upper body portion 29 such that when upper body portion 29 is at an angle of 40° to the vertical as shown in Figure 14, then the centre of gravity of upper body portion 29 is positioned in front of wheels 44 and, more preferably, above space 25.

In a particularly preferred embodiment, upper body portion 29 is positionable in a lowered storage position wherein upper body portion 20 extends generally rearwardly from front portion 21 of head 22. Preferably, space 25 has a sufficient width so as to allow upper body portion 20 to fit therewithin so that longitudinal axis B of head 22 is generally parallel to longitudinal axis A of upper body portion 29. More preferably, longitudinal axis A and B define a continuous axis when upper body portion 29 is a lowered stored position.

In a particular preferred embodiment, space 25 has a sufficient width to accommodate therein the lower portion of upper body portion 29. Thus rear portions extend on either side of upper body portion 29 when upper body portion 29 is in the lowered storage position. However, if the portion of conduit 48 extending from joint 78 to bottom 38 is sufficiently long, upper body portion 20 may be positionable in the lowered storage position such that bottom 38 is spaced from rearward ends 80 of rear portions 23. With this profile, vacuum cleaner 20 may be easily placed under many beds and like pieces of furniture for storage or cleaning. Further, it may be hung for storage such as from a hook mounted in a wall or from a ceiling by means of hanger 82 using any hanger means known in the art.

Despite having motor 24 positioned on upwardly extending portion 29, only a small amount of force may be required to hold vacuum cleaner 20 in an in use position as shown in Figure 4. For example, when upper body portion 29 is inclined such that axis A is at an angle α (see Figure 14) of 40° to the vertical, the

weight exerted by handle 42 in the hand of a user may be less than three pounds and, preferably, is less than two pounds. Accordingly, the vacuum cleaner provides ease of use despite the position of the motor towards the upper body portion 29.

5 Therefore, the configuration of the air path through the vacuum cleaner according to the present invention advantageously permits a substantial reduction in the pressure loss without interfering with the overall performance of the cyclone separation device. Thus, the present invention permits a smaller
10 motor to be used to provide a similar draw at the intake end 52 compared to current designs.

 While the above description constitutes the preferred embodiments, it will be appreciated that the present invention is susceptible to modification and change without departing from the
15 fair meaning of the proper scope of the accompanying claims.

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We Claim:

1. An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:
 - (a) a cleaning head for cleaning a surface;
 - (b) an upper body portion mounted on the cleaning head, the
5 upper portion having a longitudinally extending axis and comprising:
 - (i) at least one cyclone having an air entry port; and,
 - (ii) a motor positioned above the at least one cyclone and in air flow communication with the at least one cyclone.
- 10 2. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cleaning head has a forward portion including an opening in air flow communication with the at least one cyclone and two spaced apart rear portions extending rearwardly from the forward portion, the
15 spaced apart rear portions defining an open space therebetween, the upper body portion mounted on the cleaning head at a position forward of the spaced apart rear portions.
- 20 3. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 2 wherein the upper portion is positionable in a lowered in use position wherein the longitudinally extending axis is at an angle of 40° to the vertical and, when the upper body portion is in the lowered in use position, the
25 centre of gravity of the upper body portion is positioned above the open space.
4. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 3 wherein the upper body portion further comprises a handle, the weight of the handle in the lowered in use position being 2 lbs. or less.

5. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 3 wherein the spaced apart rear members have floor contacting members adjacent the ends thereof.

5 6. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 5 wherein the spaced apart rear members have floor contacting members positioned rearwardly of the centre of gravity when the upper body portion is in the lowered in use position.

10 7. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein the upper body portion is pivotally connected to the cleaning head whereby the upper body portion is moveable between an in use position in which the upper body portion extends upwardly and rearwardly from the cleaning head and a lowered storage position in which the upper body portion extends generally rearwardly from the cleaning head.

15 8. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 7 wherein the cleaning head has a forward portion and two spaced apart rear portions extending rearwardly from the forward portion, the upper body portion mounted on the cleaning head at a position forward of the spaced apart rear portions, the spaced apart rear portions defining on open space therebetween sized for receiving the upper body portion therebetween when the upper body portion is in the lowered storage position.

25 9. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein the upper body portion further comprises a handle, the weight of the handle in the lowered in use position being 2 lbs. or less.

10. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a mounting member engageable with a support member mounted on

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a wall whereby the vacuum cleaner may be hung flush against the wall when the upper body portion is in the lowered storage position.

5 11. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a second cleaning member positioned downstream from the at least one cyclone.

10 12. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 11 further comprising an air outlet to the at least one cyclone for passage therethrough of air, the air passing generally upwardly from the air outlet to the motor.

13. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 12 wherein the second cleaning member is an electrostatic cleaning member.

15 14. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 11 wherein the second cleaning member is positioned between the at least one cyclone and the motor.

15. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 11 wherein the second cleaning member comprises at least one second cyclone.

16. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 11 wherein the second cleaning member comprises a plurality of second cyclones.

20 17. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 15 wherein the second cleaning member is positioned between the at least one cyclone and the motor, the vacuum cleaner further comprising an air outlet to the at least one cyclone and an air outlet to each of the at least one second cyclones, the air passing generally upwardly from the air
25 outlet to the at least one cyclone to the at least one second cyclones

and generally upwardly from the air outlet to the at least one second cyclones to the motor.

5 18. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 15 wherein the second cleaning member is positioned downstream of the motor, the vacuum cleaner further comprising an air outlet to the at least one cyclone, the air passing generally upwardly from the air outlet to the at least one cyclone to the motor and generally upwardly from motor to the at least one second cyclones.

10 19. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an air inlet to the at least one cyclone and an air supply conduit communicating with the cleaning head and with the air entry port, a portion of the air supply conduit extending longitudinally through the cyclone.

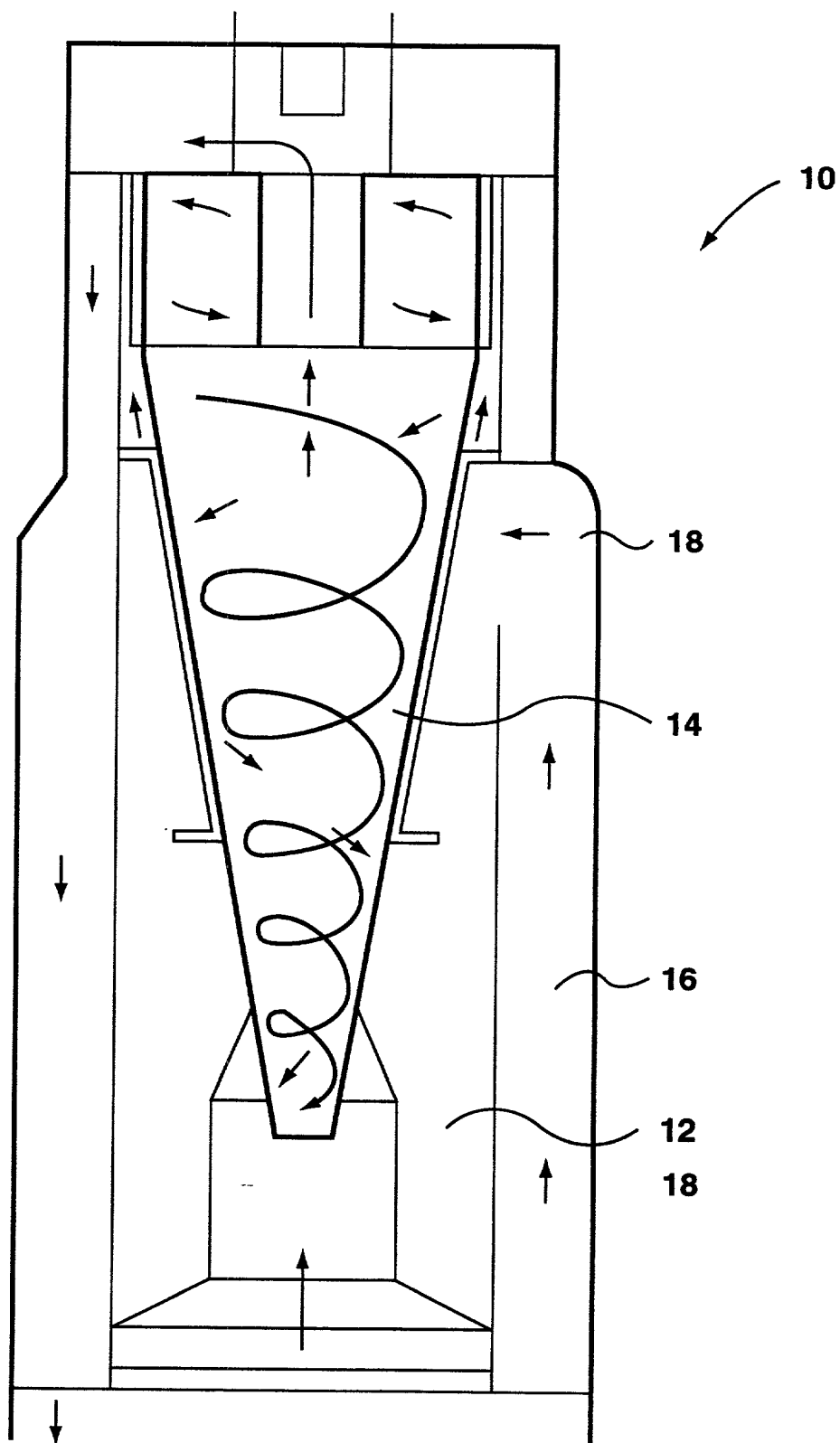
15 20. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 19 wherein the air supply conduit connects to the air entry port other than through a 90° elbow.

21. An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

- 20 (a) a cleaning head for cleaning a surface having a forward portion and two spaced apart rear portions extending rearwardly from the forward portion;
- 25 (b) an upper body portion mounted on the cleaning head, the upper portion having a longitudinally extending axis and at least one cyclone having an air entry port, the upper body portion mounted on the cleaning head at a position forward of the spaced apart rear portions, the spaced apart rear portions defining an open space therebetween sized for receiving the upper body portion therebetween when the upper body portion is in the lowered storage position.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5



PRIOR ART
FIG. 1

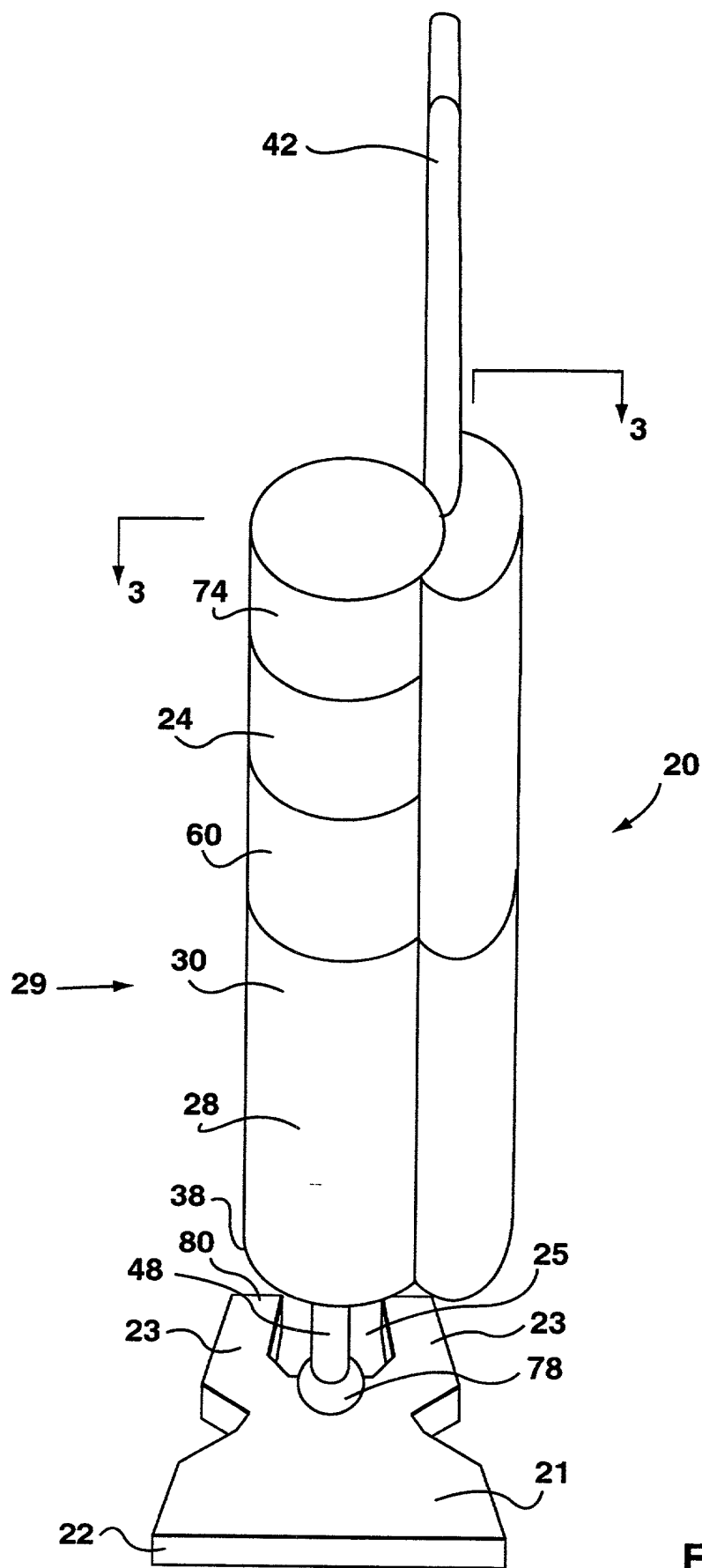
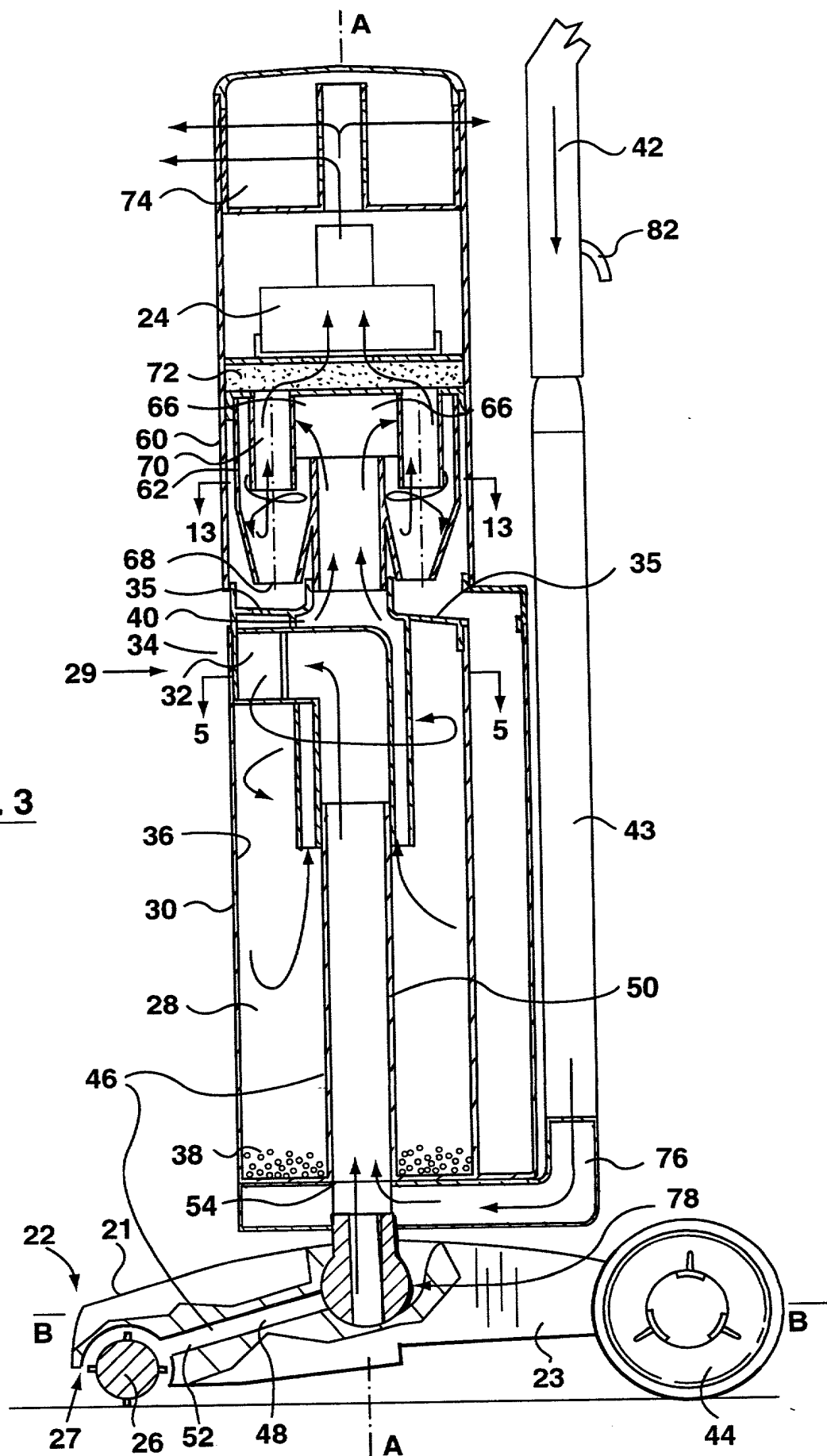


FIG. 3



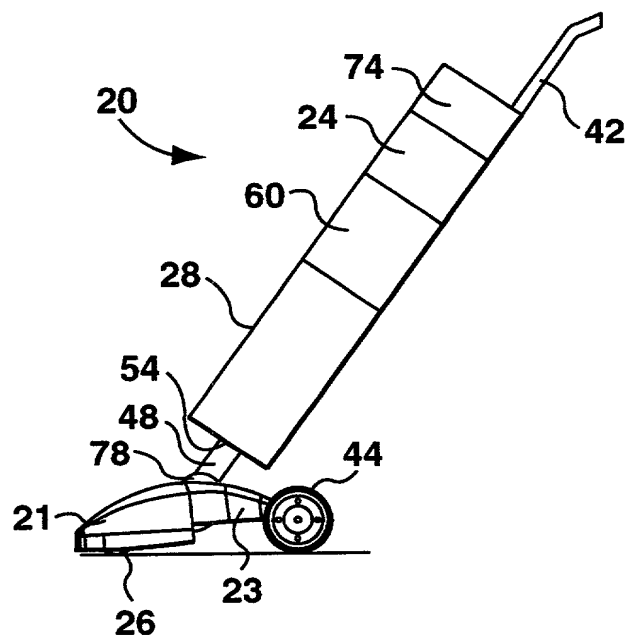


FIG. 4

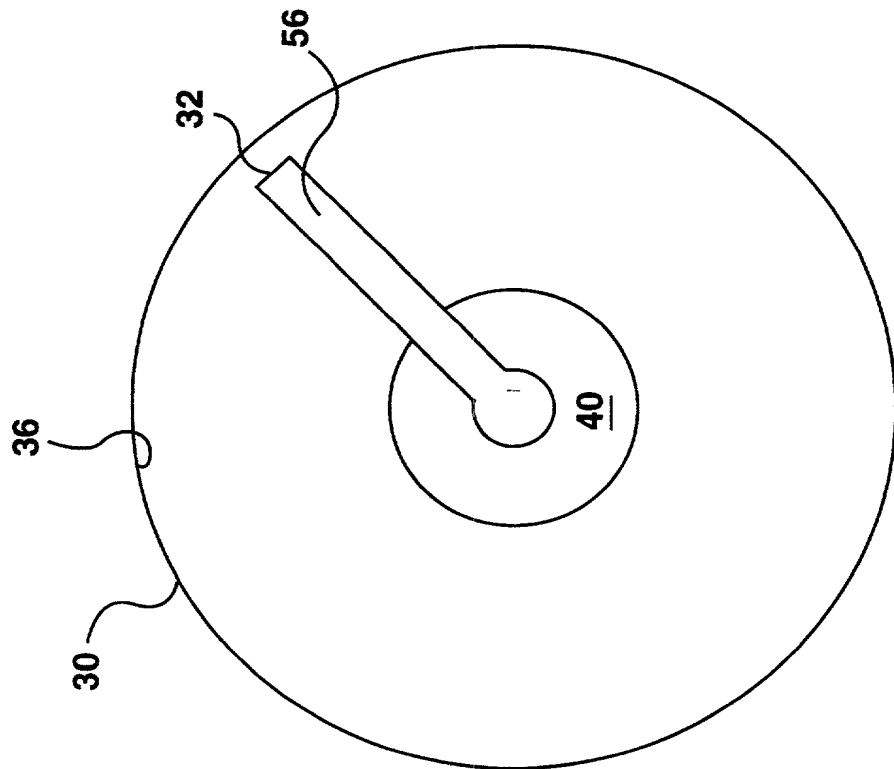


FIG. 5

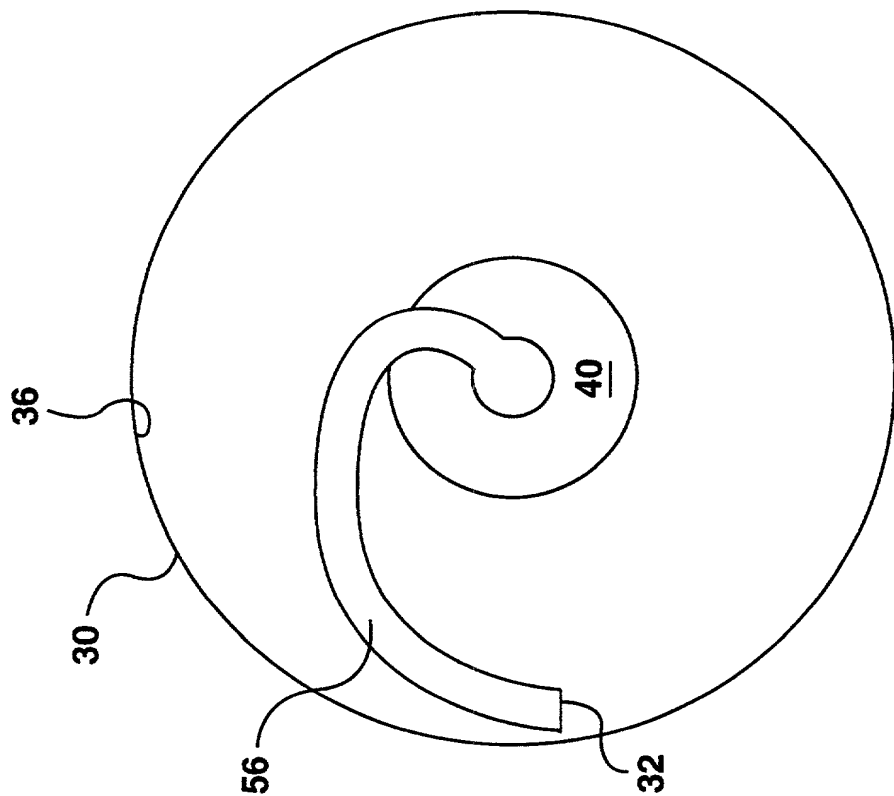
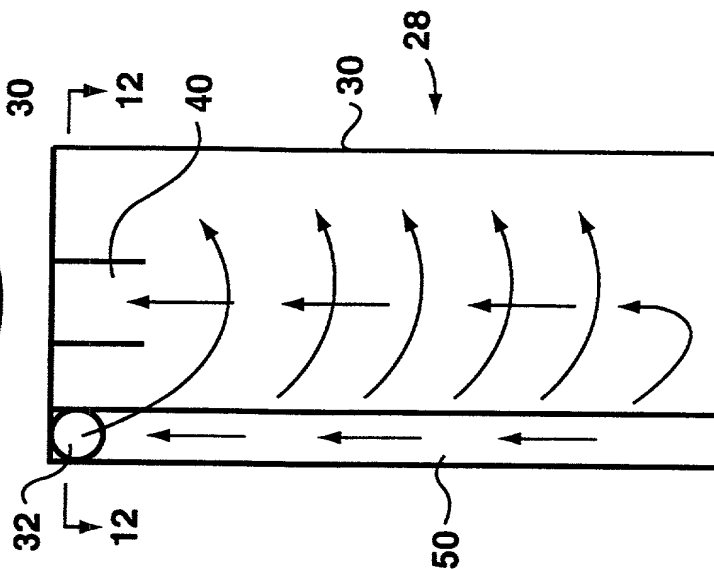
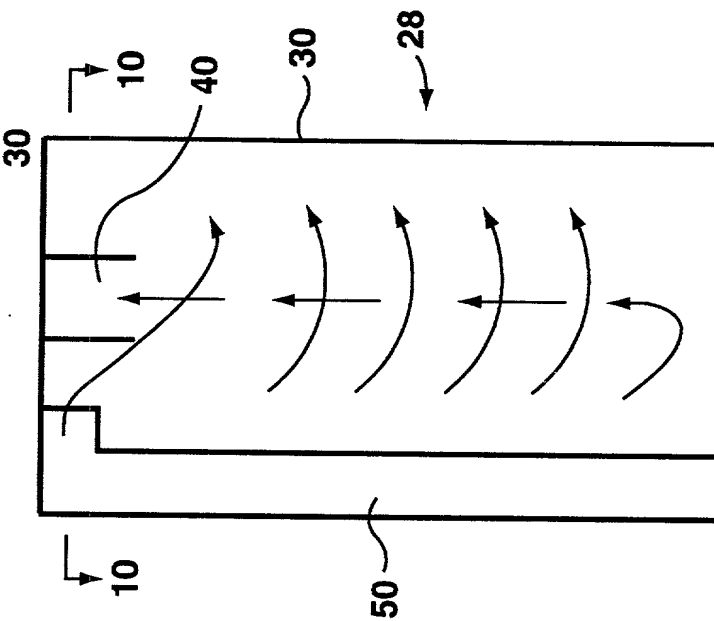
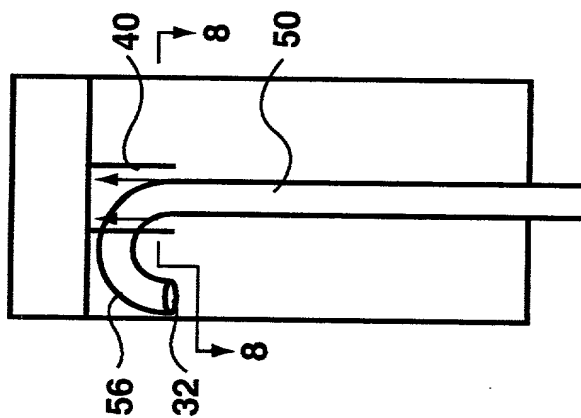
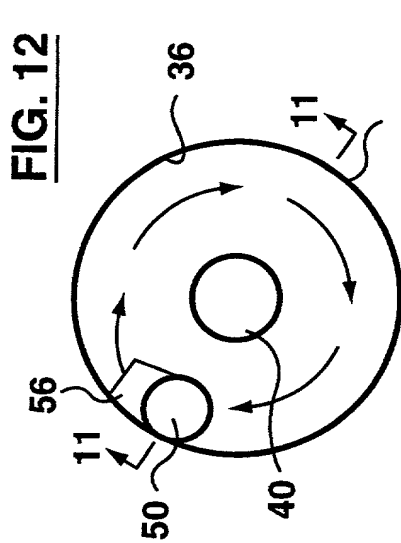
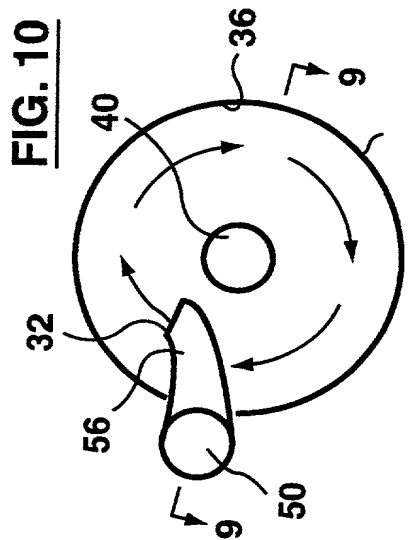
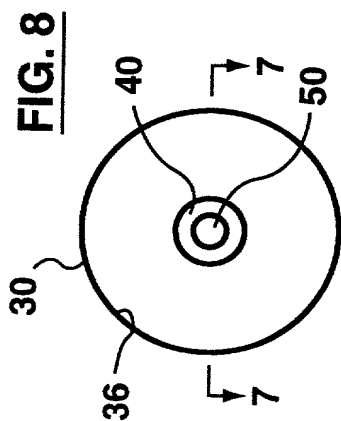


FIG. 6



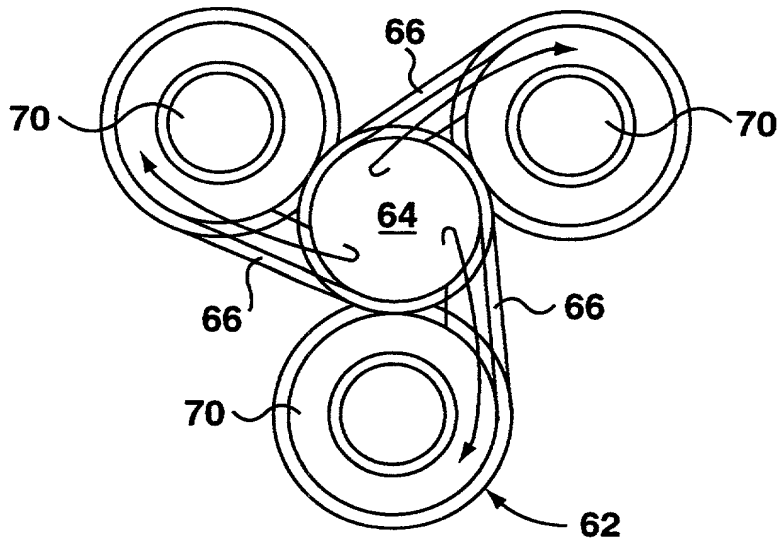


FIG. 13

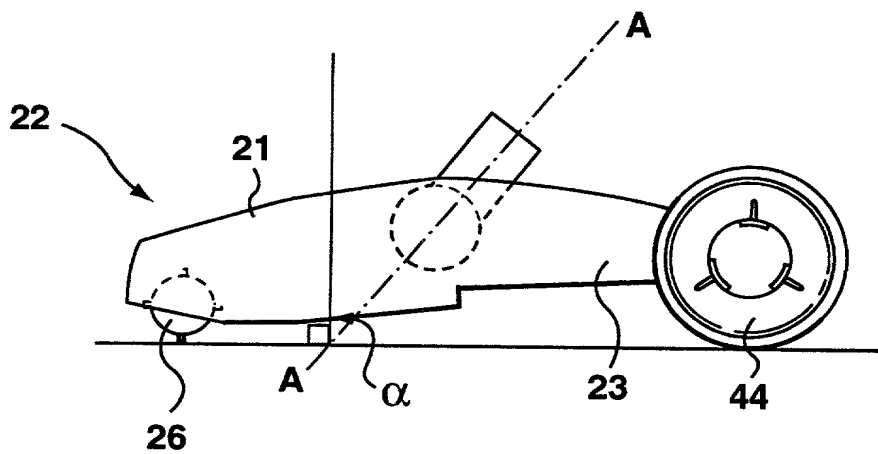


FIG. 14

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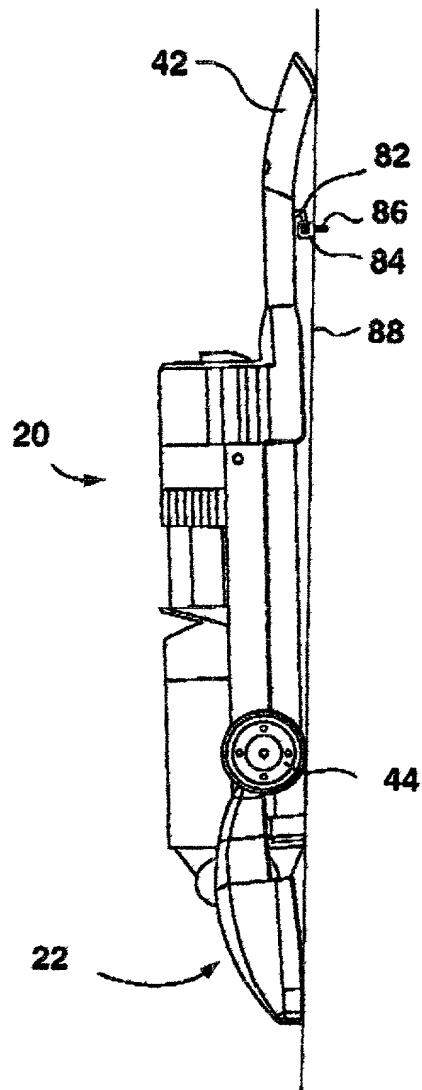


FIG. 15

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PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**☐ Declaration
Submitted
with Initial
Filing

OR

☐ Declaration
Submitted after Initial
Filing (surcharge
(37 CFR 1.16 (e))
required)

Attorney Docket Number 5562-910/PMdC

First Named Inventor Conrad et al.

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number 09 / 239,860

Filing Date January 29, 1999

Group Art Unit 1744

Examiner Name T. Snider

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Upright vacuum cleaner

the specification of which

(Title of the Invention)

☐ is attached hereto
OR☒ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 01/29/1999 as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number 09/239,860 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

| Prior Foreign Application Number(s) | Country | Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Priority Not Claimed | Certified Copy Attached? | |
|--|---------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
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☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

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[Page 1 of 2]

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| U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number | Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Parent Patent Number (if applicable) |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 09/227,534 | 01/08/99 | |

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|---------|---------------------|-----------|----------------|-----|----------------|
| Name | Bereskin & Parr | | | | |
| Address | Box 401 | | | | |
| Address | 40 King Street West | | | | |
| City | Toronto | State | Ontario | ZIP | M5H 3Y2 |
| Country | Canada | Telephone | (416) 364-7311 | Fax | (416) 361-1398 |

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Name of Sole or First Inventor: Wayne Ernest Conrad ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------|------------------------|---------|---------|
| Given Name (first and middle [if any]) | | | Family Name or Surname | | |
| Wayne Ernest | | | Conrad | | |
| Inventor's Signature | | | | | Date |
| Residence: City | Hampton | State | Ontario | Country | Canada |
| Post Office Address | 27 King Street | | | | |
| Post Office Address | 27 King Street | | | | |
| City | Hampton | State | Ontario | ZIP | LOB 1J0 |
| Country | Canada | | | | |

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto

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Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/02A (3-97)
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DECLARATION

ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)
 Supplemental Sheet
 Page 1 of 1

| | | | |
|--|------------------------|---|----------------|
| NAME OF ADDITIONAL JOINT INVENTOR, if any: | | <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor | |
| Given Name (first and middle (if any)) | | Family Name or Surname | |
| Helmut Gerhard | | Conrad | |
| Inventor's Signature | x <i>Helmut Conrad</i> | | Date 7.01.00 |
| Residence: City | Hampton | State Ontario | Country Canada |
| Post Office Address | 27 King Street | | |
| Post Office Address | 27 King Street | | |
| City | Hampton | State Ontario | Country Canada |
| Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any: | | <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor | |
| Given Name (first and middle (if any)) | | Family Name or Surname | |
| | | | |
| Inventor's Signature | | | Date |
| Residence: City | | State | Country |
| Post Office Address | | | |
| Post Office Address | | | |
| City | | State | Country |
| Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any: | | <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor | |
| Given Name (first and middle (if any)) | | Family Name or Surname | |
| | | | |
| Inventor's Signature | | | Date |
| Residence: City | | State | Country |
| Post Office Address | | | |
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ASSOCIATE POWER OF ATTORNEY

Please recognize as our associate attorneys, with full powers to prosecute this application, the additional practioners, as follows:

Anthony M. Zupcic (Registration No. 27,276)
Warren E. Olsen (Registration No. 27,290)
Scott D. Malpede (Registration No. 32,533)
Richard P. Bauer (Registration No. 31,588)
Mark A. Williamson (Registration No. 33,628)
Daniel S. Glueck (Registration No. 37,838)
Brian L. Klock (Registration No. 36,570)

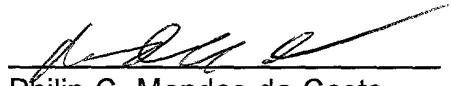
FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
Customer No. 05514
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10112-3801
Facsimile No. 212-218-2200

Telephone inquiries concerning this associate power may be directed to the Washington, D.C. office of the associate attorneys, as follows:

Docket No. : 2019. 910C1 (or 2019.753C1)
Warren E. Olsen (Reg. No. 27,290)
Telephone No. : 202-530-1010
Facsimile No. : 202-530-1055

All papers and written correspondence should continue to be directed to the principal attorneys, as follows:

BERESKIN & PARR
Box 401
40 King Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 3Y2
CANADA


Philip C. Mendes da Costa
Reg. No. 33,106